

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149106

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS --

MINISTER-NEGOTIATOR TACK'S POSITION.

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR.

REF: PANAMA 3677

1. MUCH APPRECIATE REFTTEL, ESPECIALLY ITS COMMENT.
GONZALEZ-REVILLA, WHO RETURNED LAST WEEKEND TO WASHINGTON,
HAS SAID MUCH THE SAME -- BUT IN AN ELLIPTICAL WAY WHICH
IS UNLIKE HIM AND WHICH CAUSES US TO SPECULATE THAT THERE
MAY BE MORE TO THIS THAN WE YET KNOW.

2. CONSEQUENTLY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AS MUCH OF A FLOW
OF INFORMATION AND SPECULATION ON TACK'S FUTURE POWER
POSITION AS YOU CAN PROVIDE. FOR ONE EXAMPLE ONLY, WHAT
DO YOU THINK HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE "SECRET GROUP" WILL
BE IN THE FUTURE?

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3. AS YOU WILL HAVE IMAGINED, WHILE THE NEGOTIATORS HAVE

SO FAR VIEWED TACK AS BEING, ON BALANCE, AN ASSET TO THE
NEGOTIATION, THAT BALANCE IS DELICATE. WE DO NOT WANT TO
BE CAUGHT PAYING UNDUE ATTENTION TO A TRULY DISCREDITED
COMMODITY IN PANAMA. KISSINGER

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